

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT[441]

Adopted and Filed

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 249A.4, the Department of Human Services amends Chapter 78, "Amount, Duration and Scope of Medical and Remedial Services," and Chapter 79, "Other Policies Relating to Providers of Medical and Remedial Care," Iowa Administrative Code.

These amendments allow pharmacies that administer the influenza vaccine available through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program to receive reimbursement for administration of the vaccine to Medicaid members.

These amendments were Adopted and Filed Emergency and published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on October 6, 2010, as ARC 9132B. Notice of Intended Action to solicit comments on these amendments was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin as ARC 9133B on the same date. The Department received two comments on the Notice of Intended Action. Both supported the change, but there were concerns about reimbursement.

The Iowa Pharmacy Association pointed out that the reimbursement is not the same as what a physician or clinic would receive, since there is no office visit fee connected with the service, and that other states pay a higher dispensing fee. Although the Iowa fee schedule and billing codes are the same for all providers, the Department acknowledges that other insurers reimburse at a higher rate for vaccine administration and is analyzing the current fee schedule for this service.

These amendments are identical to those Adopted and Filed Emergency and published under Notice of Intended Action.

These amendments do not provide for waivers in specified situations. Requests for the waiver of any rule may be submitted under the Department's general rule on exceptions at 441—1.8(17A,217).

The Council on Human Services adopted these amendments on December 8, 2010.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code section 249A.4.

These amendments shall become effective February 2, 2011, at which time the Adopted and Filed Emergency amendments are hereby rescinded.

The following amendments are adopted.

ITEM 1. Adopt the following new rule 441—78.42(249A):

441—78.42(249A) Pharmacies administering influenza vaccine to children. Payment will be made to a pharmacy for the administration of influenza vaccine available through the vaccines for children program administered by the department of public health if the pharmacy is enrolled in the vaccines for children program. No payment will be made for the vaccine.

ITEM 2. Amend subrule 79.1(2) by adopting the following new provider category:

<u>Provider category</u>	<u>Basis of reimbursement</u>	<u>Upper limit</u>
Pharmacy administration of influenza vaccine to children	Physician fee schedule for immunization administration	Fee schedule in effect 11/30/09 less 5%.

[Filed 12/8/10, effective 2/2/11]

[Published 12/29/10]

EDITOR'S NOTE: For replacement pages for IAC, see IAC Supplement 12/29/10.